

REMARKS

Claims 8-25, 28-52, and 61-159 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 53-60 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 36, 37, 49, 50, 129-131, and 135-137 have been amended. New claim 159 has been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Grant for indicating that claims 8-25, 28-52 and 61-158 are allowable. Allowable claims 36 and 37 previously depended on canceled claim 2, which depended on claim 1. Since claims 36 and 37 were indicated as being allowable in the Office Action of January 25, 2002 (Paper No. 9), claims 36 and 37 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 2, as they were examined in the Office Action of January 25, 2002. The amended claims 36 and 37 are therefore allowable.

Allowable claims 49, 50, and 129-131 previously depended on claim 27, which was allowed in the Office Action of January 25, 2002, but was subsequently canceled by Applicants. By this amendment, Applicants have reinstated claim 27 as new claim 159. New Claim 159 is identical in scope to original claim 27 and hence introduces no new matter. Claims 49, 50, and 129-131 have been amended accordingly to correct their dependency.

Allowable claims 135-137 previously depended on canceled claim 55, which depended on canceled claim 53. Since claims 135-137 were indicated as being allowable in the Office Action of January 25, 2002, claims 135-137 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 53 and 55, as they were examined in the Office Action of January 25, 2002. The amended claims 135-137 are therefore allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 53-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for reasons stated on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 53-60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), for reasons stated on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Claims 1-2 and 4-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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